

Lake County and its officers, including: Vincent J. Gumulauskis, who has been president for 5 years; Pete D. Auksel and Casimir Balt, both of whom are vice-presidents; Birute Vilutis, secretary; and Walter Ruzga, treasurer. Allow me to also commend the board of directors, whose members include the Reverend Ignatius Urbonas, Aleksas Degutis, Alex Navardauskas, Dan Pauls, Frank Petrites, Brone Tampuskas, and Izidorius Tavaras. Finally, I would like to commend every member of the Lithuanian American Council for the loyalty and enthusiasm they have displayed.

The Lithuanian American Council of Lake County, IN, is a branch of the Lithuanian American Council, Inc. It was founded in 1940 and originated in large cities such as Boston, Chicago, and New York. The organization in Lake County was initially headquartered at St. Francis Church in East Chicago, IN, until recently when the building was demolished. The organization was then moved to St. Casimir where its home is today.

It is my sincere hope that 1997 will bring renewed prosperity for all members of the Lithuanian community and their families. May this 79th anniversary year prove to be a most joyous one.

TRIBUTE TO DELMA CUCCINELLO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention Delma Cuccinello of Haledon.

Delma is retiring from her position of administrative clerk in the office of the Superintendent of Elections, Passaic County, NJ, after 31 years of public service.

During her 31 years, Delma has worked under five superintendents of election, and has touched the lives of many.

A native of Paterson, Delma now resides in Haledon with her husband, Lou, and the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year. Delma and Lou are the proud parents of two daughters, and the proud grandparents of two grandsons.

Although a resident of Haledon, Delma remains very active in the Riverside Veterans Organization of Paterson, and is an integral part of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Delma's family and friends, and the county of Passaic in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Delma Cuccinello.

"LAND FOR A LIAR'S PROMISES"

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu highlighted during his visit to Washington this week focused on the lopsided and inaccurate reporting about Israel's role in the Middle East peace process. At two events I attended where the Prime Minister spoke, he made

forceful and convincing arguments that it is Israel which is in compliance with its commitments. However, most of the media have fallen prey to the international propaganda espoused by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and others which blames Israel for every problem that is encountered along the negotiating path, he concluded.

Thankfully, though, there are some individuals, like columnist George Will, whose ability to cut through the obfuscation remains intact. His recent article, which appeared in numerous newspapers around the country, sheds light on the true reality of the current situation. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I wish to share the text of this piece with my colleagues, many of whom have reiterated their concerns to me about Yasser Arafat's true intentions.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 27, 1997]

LAND FOR A LIAR'S PROMISES

(By George F. Will)

Israel's critics, who are legion and live in safe neighborhoods, says Israel is being provocative. Actually, Israel's being is provocative.

On one day, Palestinian violence is said to have been provoked by the opening of a tunnel. One another day, the provocation is said to be the beginning of construction of apartments. But the real reasons for the violence are: Violence has always been part of the warp and woof of Yasser Arafat's politics (remember, he once wore a pistol to the U.N. podium), and there is no penalty for it. Indeed, in the eyes of the "international community," Palestinian violence is self-legitimizing: It is proof of Israeli provocation.

No Israeli government could allow Arafat to veto the construction of apartments on unoccupied land in East Jerusalem owned by the Israeli state. To allow that would be to make a de facto territorial concession, conceding that Jerusalem is redivided, with Arafat sovereign in part of it.

Arafat released terrorists. Israeli intelligence says that he authorized attacks and that the head of Palestinian Preventative Security organized the Hebron riots. Last Friday, at a rally of 10,000 in Nablus, a speaker announced the "good news" of the terrorist's suicide attack in Tel Aviv, and the crowd cried, "God is great." An Arafat aide said, "The terror of bulldozers led to the terror of explosives." What kind of peace can be made with people who talk like that?

Arafat's recurring resort to violence refutes the premise of the Oslo accords, which was that land was being traded for peace. Something tangible—territory—has indeed been traded for something intangible—promises, a liar's promises. Everything about Arafat's repertoire—the violence, the rhetoric to Arabic-speaking audiences about "combat" and "jihad" and capturing all of Jerusalem, the refusal to fulfill the obligation to remove from the Palestine Charter references to the illegitimacy and destruction of Israel—is consistent with the strategy adopted in 1974. That is the "phased" strategy of founding a Palestinian state from which will be launched the final attack on a diminished Israel.

American diplomats who soothingly refer to Arafat as Israel's "partner in the peace process" visit Arafat's Ramallah office with its wall map of Palestine with Israel's borders erased. Such maps are frequent ornaments of political and cultural programming on Palestinian Authority television. Such maps are used in Palestinian commercial advertising and as jewelry. On the main Bethlehem-Hebron road stands a monument to the Palestinian "martyrs of the Intifada"

in the shape of a map of Palestine, including all the land of Israel. The diplomats probably wonder about the "real" meaning of such maps, just as diplomats wondered what Nazis "really" meant when they spoke of the "destruction" of European Jewry.

Israel lives in a bad neighborhood. One reason it is bad is that the Palestine people have had a long run of execrable leaders: leaders who supported Hitler in World War II, the Soviet Union during the Cold War and Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War. Perhaps things will get better. Perhaps when a full-fledged Palestinian state exists on the West Bank, that 22nd Arab state will be the first Arab democracy. But would those who are asking Israel to bet its life on that be willing to bet theirs?

Former prime minister Shimon Peres, when asked if Israel could safely consent to be again, as before 1967, 10 miles wide at the waist, blandly said that Israel would still be, in effect, 40 miles deep strategically because "all the land we give back must be demilitarized." But although this Palestinian state does not yet fully exist, it already is militarized with at least 30,000 well-armed soldier-policemen. Will the fully emerged state accept restrictions on its sovereignty that no other nation accepts?

And who would enforce such restrictions? The "international community" that dithered during genocide in Bosnia and is inexhaustibly "understanding" about Palestinian violence? Should Israel rely on a U.S. commitment? As Golda Meir said to President Nixon when he suggested something similar, "By the time you get here, we won't be here."

It is said that people hope vaguely but dread precisely. Modern history has provided Israelis a dread that is the premise of their statecraft: No calamity is impossible. So while the "international community" will continue to criticize Israel for the provocations inherent in its existence, Israel's riposte will be Golda Meir's words: Jews are used to collective eulogies, but Israel will not die so that the world will speak well of it.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE REX SATER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated and caring public servant, the Honorable Judge Rex Sater. Judge Sater is to be commended for 21 years of outstanding service as a judge on the Sonoma County supreme court in Santa Rosa, CA.

Judge Sater earned great respect and admiration for his handling of family law cases. His rule that disputing parties must talk matters over before involving the judge is now a common practice used throughout California known as meet and confer. His respect for juries and the justice system was clear. In fact, Judge Sater was one of the first to start the practice of having participants and spectators rise each time the jury came in and out of the courtroom.

In addition to his exemplary service as a judge, he was involved in the community as an advocate for native American causes and was a founder of the Sonoma County chapter of the ACLU.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to the Honorable Judge Rex Sater.